

House Concurrent Resolution 20

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1889L.011

Relating to the establishment of the Child Abuse and Neglect Commission within the office of the Governor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Whereas, state child protection service agencies received approximately 46,270 reports
2 of child abuse or neglect, involving nearly 71,500 children in Missouri in 1999; and
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Whereas, approximately 17,700 reports were assigned for further investigation in 1999
4 and, of those investigated, 54% were found to be unsubstantiated; and
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Whereas, a need exists for accountability in the review and investigation of child abuse
7 and neglect cases; and
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Whereas, an additional need exists for assistance within and oversight of the agencies
10 handling child abuse and neglect reports to ensure that every child's case is appropriately handled; and
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Whereas, a need for clarification and standardization of what constitutes the best interest
13 of the child exists:
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Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the House of
16 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring
17 therein, hereby authorize the creation of a Child Abuse and Neglect Commission within the office of
18 Governor which shall oversee and review the laws and rules relating to child abuse and neglect cases
19 and make recommendations on further action or legislative remedies, if any, to be taken in such cases,
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21 as necessary; and

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23 **Be it further resolved** that the Commission shall review and recommend
24 standardized guidelines for judicial review of what constitutes the best interest of the child; and
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26 **Be it further resolved** that the Commission shall make its first report to the
27 Governor and the General Assembly by February 1, 2002, and any subsequent reports shall be made
28 to the Governor and General Assembly as necessary; and
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30 **Be it further resolved** that the Child Abuse and Neglect Commission shall be
31 composed of eleven members to be appointed by the Governor, including a county prosecutor, a law
32 enforcement officer, a juvenile officer, a member of the clergy, a pediatrician, a psychologist, an
33 educator, a Division of Family Services designee, and three citizens of the state of Missouri to serve
34 four-year terms and of the members first appointed, three shall serve for a term of two years, four shall
35 serve for a term of three years, and four shall serve for a term of four years; and
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37 **Be it further resolved** that all members shall serve without compensation but shall
38 be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties
39 for the Commission; and
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41 **Be it further resolved** that the office of Governor shall provide funding,
42 administrative support, and staff for the effective operation of the Commission; and
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44 **Be it further resolved** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval
45 or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.